

Streambank Restoration Planned for Big River

Clallam Conservation District has been awarded a \$43,660 Community Salmon Fund grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The grant will pay for streambank restoration along the West End's Big River where **knotweed** infestations are being eradicated.

Over the past year the Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board and the Makah Tribe have been treating patches of knotweed – a very invasive noxious weed – along the river's banks. In many cases the eradication of the weed leaves the streambanks barren and subject to erosion and invasion by other undesirable species of vegetation. Through this project, trees will be planted in these areas. In locations where streambanks have become unstable or are particularly prone to mass wasting and erosion, engineered stabilization will be implemented. This may take the form of willow matting and wattles, bank reshaping, or engineered log jams in the river.

Project planning and design will take place this summer, and planting will begin this fall and again in the spring of 2007. Partnering on this project with the Conservation District are the Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board, Makah Tribe, Department of Natural Resources, National Park Service, and private landowners.



Can you spot the person?
Cathy Lucero, with Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board hides in a jungle of knotweed.

GOT KNOTWEED?

Japanese, giant and Himalayan knotweed are non-native plants of the buckwheat family. These tall bamboo-like plants are extremely invasive. Originally introduced as an ornamentals, plants spread when roots or even stem pieces are moved by people, machinery, or even water.

Knotweed forms dense thickets that exclude native species and are of little value to wildlife. At the end of the growing season, a mass of dead stems remains that continues to crowd out native seedlings, and leaves river banks vulnerable to erosion.

The Clallam County Noxious Weed Board is currently focusing on removal of knotweed along streams and riverbanks to help restore valuable habitat. For more information contact Cathy Lucero at (360) 417-2442 or visit the County Noxious Weed Board website at www.clallam.net/weedcontrol.

KNOTWEED ID TIPS

- Thick green to reddish stems that look similar to bamboo
- Large bright green leaves ranging from egg to heart-shaped with a pointed tip
- Sprouts in April, grows to 15 feet tall or more by July
- Spikes of white flowers appear from July to September
- Seen in flood zones along rivers and creeks, also frequents ditches, yards and roadsides



Japanese knotweed leaves and flowers.

HELEN HALLER RAINGARDEN

John Kertis (pictured in vest) of **Jamestown Excavating** donated his time and equipment to excavate the new rain garden at the Helen Haller Elementary School in Sequim. Some of the fifth-grade students who helped design the garden and teachers Sheri Suryan (with shovel) and Mary Koutnik were on hand for the groundbreaking ceremony. **Maple View Farm** donated the compost and loamy sand for the garden's amended soils. The garden will be planted in the fall. Stay tuned!



Photo courtesy of the Sequim Gazette

Look Familiar?



Are your pastures looking a little tired? Fed up with all that mud in the winter? Give us a call, we can help!

We provide technical and financial assistance to help horse and livestock owners develop plans for managing their land in a way that protects natural resources. Our cost-share program helps off-set the costs of projects such as installing gutters and downspouts on barns, creating mud-free paddocks, and installing fences along waterways.

All our services are free and non-regulatory, so what have you got to lose? Call us at (360) 452-1912 ext. 109 for more information or assistance.

Three Crabs Area Study Underway

The Clallam Conservation District has embarked on a comprehensive assessment of the area from Meadowbrook Creek to Casselary Creek, referred to as the Three Crabs Area. The goal of this study is to determine the causes of water quality problems of the area, and identify solutions that also address habitat concerns. The result of the investigation will be a site-specific water quality plan with a prioritized list of actions for reducing contamination, addressing flooding concerns, and restoring wetland and estuarine habitat in the area.

As part of the study a public workshop will be held at the Guy Cole Convention Center at Carrie Blake Park in Sequim at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, July 11. The workshop will include an open house in which landowners will have the opportunity to talk with representatives of the various agencies working in the area. There will also be a presentation by Brian Collins, a research scientist from the University of Washington. Mr. Collins' presentation will focus on the ecology of the area and the geologic and more recent events that have shaped the current landscape. If you are interested in learning more about the upcoming workshop or the Three Crabs Area study in general, call Clea at (360) 452-1912 x.112.



LANDOWNER PROFILE: KEN & LOUISE SADILEK

For almost 35 years, Ken and Louise Sadilek have raised cattle, cut hay and managed timber on their 184 acres in Clallam Bay. Their primary goal — to leave the land in better shape than when they acquired it — is evident in the many projects they have undertaken to enhance wildlife habitat and protect the land.

The pictures below illustrate only a fraction of these projects. The Sadileks also actively manage their forestland for timber and other products. They have battled reed canarygrass in their efforts to plant thousands of trees and reclaimed an old gravel pit. In 2005 the Sadileks replaced an impassable culvert on a stream flowing through their forestland. That project, funded through a Family Forest Fish Passage Program grant sponsored by Clallam Conservation District, allowed access to 0.37 miles of fish habitat upstream.

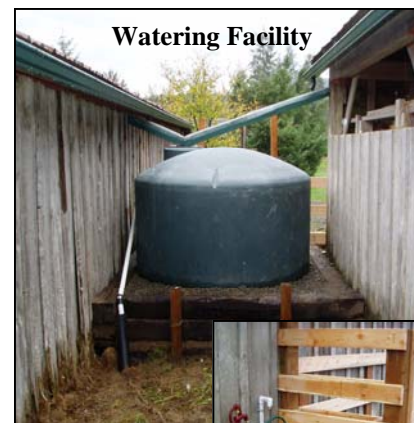
We admire the great work Ken, Louise and their family have done. It has been an honor to work with you!



Ken and Louise Sadilek and their faithful companion Duke.



Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
In 2003 the Sadileks enrolled 15.6 acres of land along the Clallam River in CREP. Livestock exclusion fence was installed to protect 10,000 native trees and shrubs from their cattle.



Streambank Stabilization on the Clallam River

In 2005 the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Conservation District partnered with the Sadileks to protect about 1,000 feet of streambank and improve salmon habitat.

The project included placing logjams, reshaping the steep banks and replanting the project area with native trees and shrubs to prevent further erosion, installing a fence to exclude cattle from the river, and developing a watering facility using rainwater collected from barn roofs to replace drinking water the cattle had previously gotten from the river.

Clallam Conservation District is non-regulatory agency that works with landowners on a voluntary basis. We have programs to help landowners off-set the costs of making improvements to their land that conserve natural resources. To learn more about participating in programs such as those the Sadileks took part in, please contact the Conservation District at (360) 452-1912 ext. 109.

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The Conservation News is published quarterly and is currently reaching over 1,854 mailboxes and is available for review on our website. Your support will help us reach more people interested in getting involved in local conservation efforts.

For information on becoming a sponsor, please call (360) 452-1912 ext. 5.

Visit our website at <http://clallam.scc.wa.gov>

Clallam Conservation District is a subdivision of state government created to promote the stewardship and conservation of natural resources in Clallam County. Public meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 3:00 p.m. at the USDA Service Center, 1601 E. Front St., Bldg/Suite A in Port Angeles.

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Want to help us save a tree??
Our newsletter is available in email format, so if you would like to start receiving the electronic version of our newsletter, give us a call at (360) 452-1912 ext. 5 or send an email to ccd-info@wa.nacdn.net



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